

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This supplemental communication is in response to the Notice of Not Fully Responsive Amendment dated March 10, 2009. Claims 25-43, 45 and 46 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-22, 24 and 44 were previously canceled, without prejudice. Claims 23, 25-43, 45-48 remain pending in this application with claim 23 being the only independent claim. Entry and consideration of the amendment is respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented below.

In the March 10, 2009 communication the Examiner asserts that the previously filed amendments were not fully responsive because Applicants have failed to "state whether or not the newly added claims 47 and 48 read on (1) the elected species (clamp of Figure 1 and built in module of Figure 7) and (2) the subcombination Group I." {March 10, 2009 Communication: P. 2, ll. 2-4}

Applicant submits that newly added claims 47 and 48 read on the elected species and subcombination for at least the reasons described below.

Claim 24 was the elected subcombination, with claims 23 and 44 being acknowledged by the Examiner as being considered regardless of the group subcombination elected. The subject matter of claims 24 and 44 was previously incorporated into independent claim 23.

Dependent Claim 47

Claim 47 specifies that the "quick-action clamping cylinder" includes "wherein the tubular ring shape projection (104) of the piston (4) defines a second chamfer (26) along which the locking balls (21) contact when in the unlocked position, the second chamfer (26) having a slope greater than that of the first chamfer (25)."

The subject matter in claim 47 reads on the elected species (clamp of Figure 1 and built in module of Figure 7) and the subcombination Group I of a clamping device having the locking balls contacting a chamfer in the locked position and a locking ball contacting a cover.

Dependent Claim 48

Claim 48 is directed to a “quick-action clamping cylinder” “wherein the locking balls (21) are elastically deformable.” The subject matter in claim 48 reads on the elected species (clamp of Figure 1 and built in module of Figure 7) and the subcombination Group I of a clamping device having the locking balls contacting a chamfer in the locked position and a locking ball contacting a cover.

Claims 47 and 48 reading on the elected species and subcombination, Applicant requests that claims 23, 47 and 48 be considered. If independent claim 23 is allowed, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and consider all withdrawn claims since they depend from independent claim 23.


CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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